

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Charles T. Hagel
Secretary of Defense
100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel:

Last week, the Department of Defense reported that an estimated 26,000 incidents of sexual assault took place in our military in 2012. Victims only reported a fraction of these assaults. This is a crisis that must be solved and it requires strong leadership at all levels – from the Secretary down to small-unit leaders, and even the individual servicemembers.

During your confirmation process, we discussed the need to rapidly implement the sexual assault provisions contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2013 (P.L. 112-239).

These provisions include:

- the creation of independent review boards to examine the way the Department investigates and prosecutes sexual assault cases;
- instructions to create special victims units in each of the services to improve investigation, prosecution and victim support; and
- improvements of how the military collects data and reports sexual assault.

I would appreciate you providing a status report on the implementation of each of the sexual assault provisions in the FY 2013 NDAA, including a timeline for completion of any provisions not fully implemented.

This is a problem that cannot wait to be addressed. Servicemembers should not have to fear for their own personal safety. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to continuing to work with you and the Department to further the well-being of our servicemembers.

Sincerely,



Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator